C!N
1004
ZOMBIES
Anita Blake
Vampire Hunter

Dabel Brothers Make Theirs Marvel!

If you want a classic example of a comic book success story, you need look no further than Dabel Brothers Productions. DBPro, as the company is known to its many readers, broke into the comics market with the sleeper hit ***George R.R. Martin's Hedge Knight,*** a limited series adaptation of a novella by the award-winning author. This series, which put them on the map as a publisher, was followed by adaptations of works by *Raymond E. Feist, Robert Silverberg, Robert Jordan, Orson Scott Card,* and others; soon the company had established itself as *the* publisher as far as sophisticated licensed SF and fantasy was concerned.

Apparently their fan base extended well beyond comics and into the publishing realm as well: now the Dabels have signed an agreement with Marvel Comics that will see DBPro solicited, published, and distributed by Marvel Comics. The Dabels will retain full control of their company, which will serve as a sophisticated superhero-alternative imprint for Marvel in much the same way that Vertigo fills that niche for DC.

"We're so happy that this deal has gone through," DBPro publisher *Les Dabel* said. "We've been talking to Marvel for a while, and we've known for a couple of months that everyone had agreed in principle, but it takes a while for contracts to be ironed out and everything finalized.

"Fans have been asking us where books like *Laurell K. Hamilton's* ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter*** were, and we couldn't tell anyone that all of our books were on hold while everything was being finalized with this Marvel deal. We hated to make everyone wait, but we knew that this would be good news for us, for Marvel, and for our readers. Now our books will get far wider circulation and far more attention than they ever could have gotten when we were doing everything on our own.

"Marvel has a great marketing department, and they're going to work with us to make sure that everyone knows about our books. And we will bring a lot of readers to Marvel who don't normally look at comics, but who like the mixture of best-selling authors and award-winning properties that we offer in our comics line."

Under the agreement, all DBPro books not yet published will be resolicited through Marvel and will begin shipping from them in October. The books will carry both a Marvel and a DBPro logo, and will be listed in their own section in Marvel Previews each month.

"We know that some readers thought we were just late with our books, but that wasn't the case at all. We have several books ready to go, and Marvel is working with us to get those books to our readers just as quickly as they can." One book that is a high priority for both DBPro and Marvel is the aforementioned ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter,*** which promises to be DBPro's most high-profile book thus far; the first issue is ready to go as soon as Marvel can resolicit.

"Ever since we first announced our agreement with *Laurell K. Hamilton* to adapt her work in comics form, we have been flooded with e-mails from her many fans wanting to know when the book would be in stores. This opportunity with Marvel came along just as we were preparing this book to go out to comic shops, and we had to put the release on hold. The delays had nothing to do with the creative team—they've done an oustanding job, and I think fans are going to be amazed when they see the quality of *Brett Booth's* art for this book. Everyone who got a look at it during this summer's convention season thought it was the best work he's ever done."

Even while this deal with Marvel was being finalized, the Dabels have continued to negotiate with other authors to bring the works to comics. "We have some major announcements coming up in the next couple of weeks—I think that readers are going to be very surprised by some of the talented writers who will be working with us," *Les Dabel* added.

Current plans call for some DBPro books that were released earlier this year to be resolicited and reissued under the new DBPro/Marvel agreement. *Monte Cook's* ***Ptolus,*** the fantasy comic based on Cook's latest RPG fantasy world, is likely to see rerelease, as is *Raymond E. Feist's* ***Magician's Apprentice.***

DB Pro will gradually ramp up its production to a four to six books per month level as well as trade paperback and hardcover collections of their adaptations. The imprint will continue to focus on licensed adaptations of works by high-profile fantasy and SF authors, with the Dabel Brothers handling the editorial side of DBPro while Marvel handles the marketing and publishing side.

"We're so grateful to Marvel for this opportunity, and we're so grateful to our fans for making our books so successful. Now we're looking forward to maintaining the quality that readers have come to expect from DBPro, and we're happy that Marvel will make those books available to the widest possible readership," Dabel said.

Be here next week when *CSN* speaks with Marvel publisher *Dan Buckley* about this agreement and what it means for both Marvel and Dabel Brothers Productions—and for further news about the first titles scheduled to be solicited through Marvel, as well as the new projects coming to DBPro in 2007.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Wonder-ful News!

DCU Executive Editor *Dan DiDio* may have given away the secret during the summer convention season, but now DC has confirmed that *Adam Hughes* will be writing, illustrating, and coloring ***All Star Wonder Woman***. One more detail did come out of DC's official announcement, though: the artist and publisher have revealed that Hughes has signed an exclusive contract with DC that will see him through his run on the book.

"DC asked me a while ago to do ***All Star Wonder Woman***, and I said sure, and it came with an exclusive contract. Ideally, if I'm working on interiors, I really shouldn't be distracting myself with covers and other extracurricular activities, so I might as well be exclusive, and gosh darn it, if I can get my teeth fixed at the same time, I'm going to go for it."

While readers will see a few more Hughes covers and origins spreads in **52**, the big thing on his radar is, of course, **All Star Wonder Woman**, which is due to launch in the summer of 2007—and Hughes can't wait to get started.

"I've been *thinking* about it for the past two years, but my phenomenal bad luck with interior projects has taught me not to do a single line of actual work until I have a contract," Hughes said about his schedule. "My last several attempts at major books with doing interiors have all ended up with me writing half an issue or a whole issue, and then having to quit. It wasn't anything I wanted to repeat. So I have been doing 'work' on ***All Star Wonder Woman***, but not anything that I can put on someone's desk and show them."

So what is the story of ***All Star Wonder Woman***, as Hughes sees it? "My plan is to start with Steve Trevor crashing on Paradise Island, and hilarity ensues," Hughes said. "The way the All Star line was pitched to me, and this was several years ago, was that this was gong to be the iconic interpretation. So what I've been doing is re-reading a lot of old ***Wonder Woman*** comics. As I see it, I'm getting to do this iconic approach to the character, and I'm looking at it the same way as the people who did…say, *Batman: The Animated Series*. You look over the sixty year history of the character, and treat it like a salad bar. You take the good bits, and leave the rest. You get the best of all possible worlds. I'm taking all the thinking I did about the character that I did when I was working on the covers…which is a lot of time to sit and think, people will probably say, because I'm so slow [laughs], and I'm taking the best bits from the Golden Age, the best bits from the George Perez run, and hopefully will come up with something where I can say, 'Aha! A happy, healthy balance.'"

Hughes also said that he's not looking to play up the "superhero" side of Wonder Woman as much as has been done in the past. Not that she *won't* do superheroic things, in Hughes' eyes, Diana did not come to man's world to be a superhero. "I happen to love the heavy mythological feel of the Perez issues," the creator explained. "To me, that presence was in the Golden Age version, but Pérez just turned it up to 11. I'd like to keep that feel, because I like the tone of Wonder Woman as a mythological character, as opposed to just a straight superhero. I'm not as enamored with the concept of the superhero as I was when I was younger, so I don't look at her as a superhero, and casting her as someone who stops bank robberies doesn't interest me as much as seeing her as the daughter of a queen, someone who comes from a perfect place, but for some reason, wants to leave. She wants to go to a place that everyone in her hometown is telling her she doesn't want to go. I find that kind of stuff a little more interesting."

Hughes has had plenty of time to think about his plans for the Amazing Amazon, even though ***All Star Wonder Woman*** is almost a year away. "I've been a cover artist for a lot of years, and I've found that the way to do the covers is to understand the characters you're drawing. It's one of the reasons that I prefer to be on a regular title, like **Wonder Woman** or **Catwoman** – after a while, you start to get a feel for the character, know who they are, and start drawing them from the inside out, as they say. I did that with Wonder Woman. I came up with my personal vision of the character.

"My take on Wonder Woman is that she's the perfect woman—but perfect characters are boring. It's the weaknesses that make people interesting. Wonder Woman's this perfect character, so her weakness can't make her look like a bad person, or even a weak character, really—so I came up with insatiable curiosity. All of my favorite, larger than life, fictitious characters seem to come from farms, and they all seem to have what I think is called a Dorothy complex – they have everything they need at home, but they want to see over the rainbow. That's it with Wonder Woman – she lives in the perfect place – and she wants to go to man's world, and meet people, and talk to strangers, and learn their ways. I thought, in the hands of a writer who's halfway decent, that insatiable curiosity, that Marco Polo, 'I have to see the world' kind of thing, could get any character into a world of trouble. She has this insatiable need to know and see the world. She's Dorothy Gale, She's Luke Skywalker, she's James Kirk – she wants to get off the farm."

That doesn't mean, though she's naive about the world in which she finds herself. "There's a difference between curiosity and naiveté. Wonder Woman standing in the middle of traffic asking, 'What's a car?' is not what I'm talking about. She's out somewhere, in strange new lands, meeting new people, and while she's there, she needs to slay a dragon…or something. She's almost addicted to learning new things. Anybody else would look at her and think she was perfect – wise, strong, beautiful, but she's like a mental anorexic, and would be thinking, 'I haven't learned Japanese yet.' But there's no pessimism – there just aren't enough hours in the day to learn all the new things in the world. That's where her fascination of man's world comes from – it's so big and wide open – there's just so much. Where she's going to get into trouble is that…there are certain things we do in man's world that they don't do on Paradise Island. Likewise, she's never seen a baby…or an old woman. Somewhere in amongst all of that, the stories start to write themselves."

And as for that aforementioned Steve Trevor? After 25 odd years as *not* being even perhaps a love interest, he's back to his more traditional role, that of a contemporary to Diana in age. "To make this all an interesting journey, I'm trying to turn up the interest level in Steve Trevor. He's going to be her guide through man's world, and if romance blossoms between them, well…we'll have to see…"

Don't dismiss Trevor as some sort of boy-toy romantic interest. "I'm treating all the supporting characters the same – Steve Trevor, Etta Candy, Diana's mother – they all should be interesting enough that they could carry their own titles," Hughes said. "They shouldn't just be throwaway characters who are only there for contractual reasons. They should be there because they themselves are important parts of Wonder Woman's story." Hughes envisions Steve Trevor as "*Steve McQueen* who's been hanging out with Race Bannon from ∫ and they go over to Chuck Yeager's house for drinks, but it's the Chuck Yeager played by *Sam Shepherd* from ***The Right Stuff***. Steve Trevor is the prototypical laconic, cowboy pilot, because that would make an interesting balance with Wonder Woman."

And As Hughes sees it, that makes him the perfect match for Wonder Woman. "Everything Wonder Woman says and does makes the world a better place. If you ask her to pass the salt at the dinner table, she'd do it in a way that would make you think, 'Gosh darn it, I *am* going to go back and finish college! She could cure cancer with a smile. She's this positive, outspoken person, so her companion for the story will be this laid-back, laconic, cowboy poet of a pilot who balances her completely. Again - it's not a story about a superhero, it's about a princess from a foreign country coming to America, and her handler/tour guide is the Marlboro Man."

The story sounds great—so what's the odds that readers will see this series on time, considering how the other ***All Star*** books are chronically late? "I told DC that most people were going to laugh when they heard I was going to be doing a monthly series, but just because the books is going to come out monthly, doesn't mean I'm going to do it monthly. I think we're talking about me handing in 10 or 11 pages of penciled, inked, and colored work each month, plus the covers. Hopefully, every two months to nine weeks, I'll have an issue done. I told them also that if they solicit before I'm finished with my issues, I'm going to run screaming and quit [laughs]. Everybody wants this to come out every thirty days, so I think we're going to stockpile it, so that as we're nearing the end of me working on the book, we'll solicit the first issue. That's my goal. I get frustrated too when a book that I wants doesn't come out as regularly as it's supposed to, so I

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think *everybody* deserves to have their ***All Star Wonder Woman*** every thirty days."

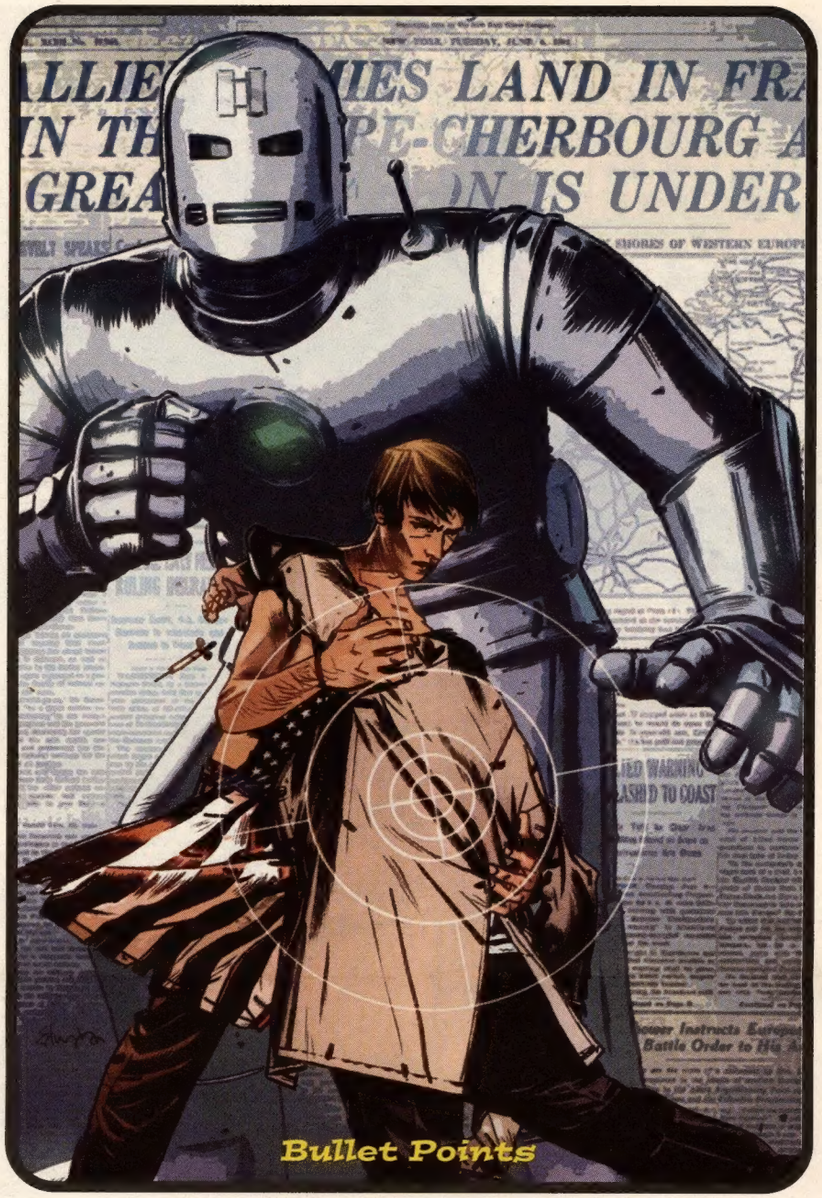
Coming Comics—Marvel in November

Mayday's ambivalence about returning to the spider-life may prove fatal for one of her closest friends! Believing that Spider-Girl could be a volunteer at St. Andrews Shelter, a brand-new super-assassin targets all the teenage girls and sets his sights on Courtney Duran! You'll meet an all-new super-villain and see the reappearance Hobgoblin in ***Amazing Spider-Girl #2*** by *Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz.*

Joss Whedon & John Cassaday kick off their final story arc in ***Astonishing X-Men #19.*** The X-Men are off to protect the Earth from its destruction at the hands of the Breakworld. And when it's all over, nothing will ever be the same!

Tom DeFalco & Ron Lim invite readers to meet the next generation of Avengers once again in ***Avengers Next # 1.*** First, they have to battle zombie versions of themselves. Then, as Katie Power (from Power Pack) joins the team, American Dream and her friends mount a search for the missing Thunderstrike. Meanwhile, the man called Nova guest stars when strange visitors from outer space land on Earth. Get the idea this is going to be an action-packed book?

Joe Casey takes readers back to the formative days of the Avengers once more in ***Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes II,*** illustrated by *Will Rosado.* A new lineup of Avengers has risen to supplant the original legends -- and these members have to prove their worth all over again. Can Goliath withstand the pressures of leadership? Can the Black Panther reconcile his duties as both king and Avenger? Can Hawkeye survive his own dysfunctional love life? And will the public ever accept the Vision as a hero?



One crucial moment in Marvel history is altered—an from there, the changes snowball in ***Bullet Points,*** a five-issue limited series by *J. Michael Straczynski & Tommy Lee Edwards.* It all begins when a bullet strikes down Dr. Erskine and his bodyguard, Ben Parker, just before he's going to inject young Steve Rogers with the super-soldier serum...

In the midst of the Civil War, Cap faces his worst fears, as friends desert his cause, and comrades in arms lie dead or wounded. And among all this, the Red Skull begins to make his moves, with a few startling comrades of his own this time. In ***Captain America #24,*** *Ed Brubaker & Mike Perkins* set the stage for the next year of Captain America adventures.

Marvel ventures into Xbox 360 videogame territory in ***Demons of Mercy,*** a six-issue series by *R.H. Savis & Walter Geovani.* In 2012, gorgeous assassin Mercy Dawn has been trained to kill anyone the Yakuza wish. It is only when she loses everything that she decides to use her skills for her own agenda. Each issue will contain exclusive content that will unlock extra game features.

The Eternals face their mystery enemy at last in ***Eternals #6,*** the double-sized finale of the series by *Neil Gaiman & John Romita Jr.*. This issue will solidify the Eternals' place in the Marvel Universe.

Alan Davis writes and pencils the final story of Marvel's first family in the six-part ***Fantastic Four: The End.*** Even the strongest family can be torn apart by tragedy—and in the futuristic world of tomorrow, the members of the once-Fantastic Four are divided and vulnerable to opponents from their past.

Reed & Sue's son is on the go again in ***Franklin Richards: Happy Thanksgiving,*** a light-hearted oneshot by *Marc Sumerak & Chris Eliopoulos.*

Peter Parker's old flame, Deb Whitman, returns in ***Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #14*** by *Peter David & Scot Eaton.* Unfortunately for Peter, she's written a tell-all memoir about her relationship with him, entitled "How Spider-Man Ruined My Life." And as if that weren't bad enough, the Vulture has been set loose from prison to scavenge for Spider-Man—but who's behind his release and what nefarious scheme do they have up their sleeve?

Greg Pak, Carlo Pagulayan, & Gary Frank commemorate a hundred issues of ***Incredible Hulk*** with a two-story bonanza. In the lead story, the Hulk and Caiera the Oldstrong lead their warriors in an all-out battle against the horrifying Spikes. Plus, a 12-page back-up illustrated by *Gary Frank* reveals what happens when someone discovers that the Illuminati were responsible for sending the Hulk into space!

Danny Rand leaps from the pages of ***Daredevil*** to his own series courtesy of *Ed Brubaker, Matt Fraction, & David Aja* - and what a series it is! ***The Immortal Iron Fist*** is a history-spanning kung-fu epic that will shatter every perception of what it means to be the Iron Fist!

Marvel goes retro once again with ***Marvel Legacy: The 1980's Handbook,*** offering a look at the Marvelverse as it was on December 31st, 1989.

By popular demand, Rogue appears in the pages of *Brian Reed & Mike Wieringo's* ***Ms. Marvel #9.*** But, if Rogue is a friend, why is Carol Danvers attacking her?!

Whither goes Wither? Find out the answers in ***New X-Men #32*** by *Craig Kyle,Christopher Yost, & Mike Norton.* After leaving the Mansion, Wither set out on his own...but what has he been up to?

Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev present the return of Hawkeye and the Scarlet Witch in ***New Avengers #26.*** Yep, that's right—the dead Avengers and the woman who killed him are back... together!...

Can a man really change who he is? The Juggernaut has tried to make his way as a hero, but there are voices in

him that are pulling him back to villainous ways. Will Juggernaut give in to the temptation? Find out in ***New Excalibur #13*** by *Frank Tieri & Jim Calafiore.*

Jeph Loeb & Rob Liefeld helm the return of Onslaught in the five-part ***Onslaught Reborn.*** And he's bringing fragments of his other universe with him! Onslaught, the Marvel Universe, and the Heroes Reborn Universe collide in this massive crossover!

Paul Cornell & Trevor Hairsine promote Pete Wisdom to his own solo MAX series with the release of ***Wisdom #1.*** It all begins when magical fairies launch an attack on England...

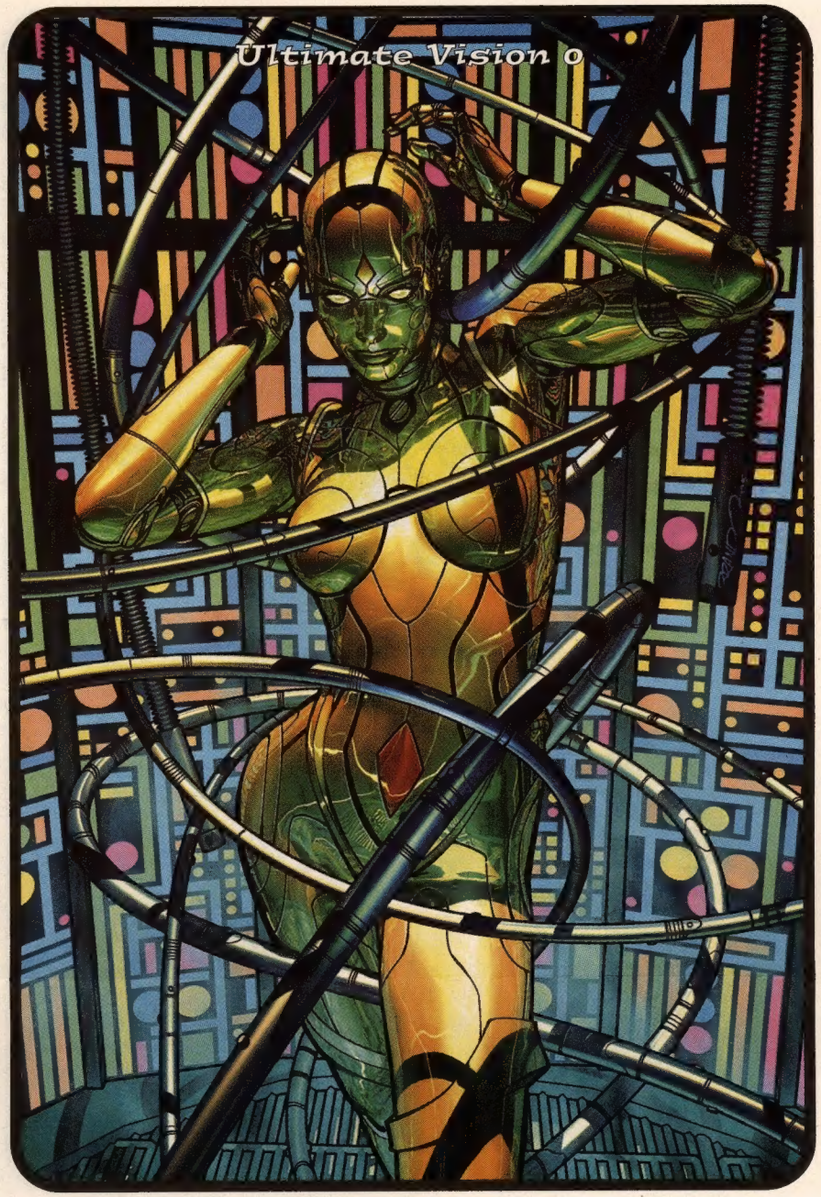
Punisher War Journal #1, originally slated for September release, has been pushed back to November due to Civil War delays.

Frank Castle wishes the bad guys a very unmerry Christmas in ***Punisher: X-Mas Special*** by *Stuart Moore & C.P. Smith.* The Punisher is coming to town to sleigh... er, slay...those responsible for a little boy's murder. Unfortunately, between a disgraced cop, a grieving single mother, and a fugitive lawbreaker, the line between Naughty and Nice has been blurred.

Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Sean Chen present the first of three one-shots focusing on the women in Peter Parker's life post-unmasking in ***Sensational Spider-Man #32***—and this issue shines the spotlight on Mary Jane Watson-Parker.

Spidey teams up with Marvel's youngest heroes in ***Spider-Man & Power Pack #1*** by *Marc Sumerak & Gurihiru.*

Peter Parker—a.k.a. Spider-Man—is the last survivor of the secret ninja group known as the Spider-Clan...or so he thought. But when Peter is attacked at the grave site of his Uncle Ben, he goes on a quest to learn the truth behind his origins—and you'll find out what he learns in ***Spider-Man Family Featuring Spider-Clan*** by *C.B. Cebulski & Skottie Young.*



Stan meet the Sentinel of the Spaceways in ***Stan Lee Meets the Silver Surfer*** by *Stan Lee, Paul Jenkins, Mike Wieringo, & Pasqual Ferry.*

After the Ultimate Reed Richards paid a surprise visit to their world in the first issue, Squadron Supreme invade the Ultimate Universe seeking revenge in *Brian Bendis & Greg Land's* ***Ultimate Power #2,*** and Earth strikes back with its biggest guns! It's the smackdown of the year as the Squadron Supreme go toe-to-toe with the Ultimates, Ultimate Fantastic Four, Ultimate X-Men and Ultimate Spidey himself.

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley reveal the secrets of Ben Reilly in ***Ultimate Spider-Man #102,*** the latest installment of the Clone Saga. Meanwhile, Peter Parker tries his best to evade capture by Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D., plus—the transformation of Mary Jane Watson—into what?! And just for good measure—the scarlet sicko, Carnage, goes on the rampage!

Learn the origin of the space-faring robot known as the Vision in ***Ultimate Vision #0*** by *Mark Millar & John Romita Jr.,* collecting the serial from last fall's ***Ultimate*** titles—and get ready for next month's debut of her all-new limited series!

What if Marvel published a few ***What If?*** stories focusing on more recent events in the Marvelverse? You don't have to wonder, because that's what Marvel's doing in ***What If? Avengers Disassembled*** by *Jeff Parker & Aaron Lopresti,* ***What If? Spider-Man: The Other*** by *Peter David & Khoi Pham,* and ***What If? Wolverine: Enemy of the State*** by *Jimmie Robinson & Carmine Di Giandomenico.*

NY Times best-selling fantasy author *Tamora Pierce* joins with co-writer *Timothy Liebe* and artist *Phil Briones* for the six-part ***White Tiger.*** Angela del Toro knows pain: Her uncle Hector Ayala, the former White Tiger, killed. Her FBI partner, murdered. Her career, ruined. Her mentor, Matt Murdock, jailed. And the hurt is just beginning....The Yakuza's bloodthirsty Sano Orii returns, a genocidal shadow organization appears, and a new-but-old super-powered madman is looking to put the squeeze on White Tiger.

Peter David & Pablo Raimondi explore the hopes, fears, and darkest secrets of the members of X-Factor in ***X-Factor #13's*** "Re-X-Aminations."

Meet the artist Marvel sees as the breakthrough illustrators of 2007 in ***Young Guns: Reload Sketchbook.***

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Avengers: Galactic Storm Volume 2,*** collecting the massive multi-book crossover from ***Avengers, Avengers West Coast, Cap, Iron Man,*** and other Avengers-family titles;
- ***Avengers and Power Pack Assemble! Digest,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries;
- ***Captain America & the Falcon: The Swine,*** collecting ***Captain America #s 206-214 & Annual #s 3-4;***
- ***Captain America: Red Menace Volume 2,*** a trade paperback collecting ***Captain America #s 18-21;***
- ***Essential Captain America Volume 3,*** a hefty black-and-white compendium that includes ***Cap #s 127-156;***
- ***Essential Man-Thing Volume 1,*** a black-and-white collection of Man-Thing tales from ***Savage Tales #1, Astonishing Tales #s 12-13, Adventure Into Fear #s 10-19; Man-Thing #s 1-14, Giant-Size Man-Thing #s 1-2, & Monsters Unleashed 5, 8 & 9;***
- ***Fantastic Four: First Family,*** collecting the six-issue early-days series by *Joe Casey & Chris Weston;*
- ***Fury: Peacemaker,*** collecting the limited series by *Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson;*
- ***Heroes Reborn: Captain America,*** collecting *Rob Liefeld's* ***Captain America v2 #s 1-12;***
- ***Heroes Reborn: Iron Man,*** collecting ***Iron Man v2 #s 1-12*** by *Jim Lee, Jeph Loeb, Whilce Portacio,* and others;

•***Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four Volume 4: Cosmic Threats,*** collecting ***Marvel Adventures FF #s 13-16;***

•***Marvel Holiday Digest,*** presenting six stories with a holiday theme;

•***Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Volume 5,*** collecting *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby's* ***Thor #s 131-140 & Annual 2;***

•***Marvel Westerns,*** a hardcover collection of Marvel's Western oneshots from this past summer;

•***New X-Men Omnibus,*** a massive hardcover collecting *Grant Morrison's* groundbreaking run on the flagship mutant title from ***New X-Men #s 114-154 & Annual 2001;***

•***Powers Volume 10: Cosmic,*** collecting ***Powers #s 13-18;***

•***Punisher MAX Vol 6: Barracuda,*** collecting ***Punisher #s 31-36;***

•***Punisher: Very Special Holidays,*** collecting the various Punisher holiday-themed oneshots;

•***Secret War,*** a softcover edition of the series by *Brian Bendis & Gabriele Dell'Otto;*

•***Shanna the She-Devil,*** a softcover edition of the *Frank Cho* miniseries;

•***Spider-Girl Volume 7: Betrayed,*** collecting ***Spider-Girl #s 34-38 & 51;***

•***Squadron Supreme Volume 1: The Pre-War Years,*** a hardcover collecting ***Squadron Supreme #s 1-7;***

•***X-Men: Complete Age of Apocalypse Epic Book 4,*** wrapping up the massive thousand-plus page saga; and

•***X-Men Fairy Tales,*** collecting the four-issue limited series.

Coming Comics—Image in November

The Top Cow/Marvel crossovers continue with ***Cyberforce/X-Men*** by *Ron Marz & Pat Lee.* While on a trip to Japan, Cyberforce members Ripclaw and Cyblade come face to face with a threat that even their enhanced abilities can't handle: the Sentinels! It's a case of deadly mistaken identity, as Ripclaw and Cyblade's only hope for survival turns out to be the very targets the Sentinels were searching for -- Wolverine and Psylocke of the X-Men.

A female ninja-turned-vampire tracks down the evil bloodsucker responsible for her transformation in ***Drain,*** by *C.B. Cebulski & Sana Takeda.* Her fight takes her around the globe as she battles his minions in one era after another.

Richard Starkings presents the origin of the Elephantmen from the sold out first issue of ***Hip Flask*** in ***Elephantmen #0***—and it features stunning art by *Ladronn,* so you don't want to miss it a second time.

You'll gain a new appreciation of the illustrative skills of *Eric Basaldua* once you peruse the ***Eric Basaldua Sketchbook,*** a 32-page comic that highlights the artist's talents.

The Freshmen make their sophomore comics appearance in ***Freshmen Vol 2 #1*** by *Hugh Sterbakov & Will Conrad.* Wannabe, the powerless team leader who has always dreamed of being a superhero, is having visions of the eccentric Mr. Fiddlesticks, a character from a series of children's books. But what does it mean?

Learn the story of Grace Stokes in ***The Innocents*** by *David Wohl & Bing Cansino.* Beautiful, brilliant, talented, powerful, and wealthy, she has everything going for her—and she soon learns that there's a reason for that, as she is one of The Innocents. Blessed with unbelievable abilities, the Innocents are living embodiments of Yin and Yang and, unfortunately for Grace, somebody wants them *dead...* This edition includes 80 pages of story as well as bonus material only available in this book.

Nick Bradshaw, Sean Galloway, Alina Galloway, Ryan Odagawa, Jonboy Meyers, Allison Strom, Kevin Dalton, Mark Andrew Smith, & Michael Woods take readers into ***Low Orbit*** this fall. This SF/fantasy anthology features seven short tales.

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Jonathan Hickman invites you to join him for ***The Nightly News,*** a six-issue limited series that takes readers inside the news industry in a complex, conspiratorial drama.

Learn all about all things Invincible in ***The Official Handbook of the Invincible Universe #1,*** the first half of a two-part series. Power levels, hometowns, relatives, origins, shoe sizes... it's all here.

Enjoy the ***Russian Sunset*** with *Ron Marz & Mirko Colak.* In this crime story blended with espionage thriller, Russian mob muscleman Nik travels from Brooklyn to the motherland as he's drawn into a web that includes brutal gangsters, seductive spies, fanatical terrorists and a stolen nuclear warhead.

Suki hopes to get rid of her multiple personalities with the help of an experimental machine. Unfortunately, the machine has decided to get rid of every one of her personalities... and that's not good! See what happens in ***The Scribbler*** by *Dan Schaffer.*

Steve Niles & Nat Jones adapt *David Arquette & Joe Harris's* ***The Tripper,*** a tale of hippies versus a maniacal hippie-hunter.

Image collected editions include:

- ***Coyote Volume 4,*** collecting ***Coyote #s 9-12,*** featuring, among other things, early art by *Todd McFarlane;*
- ***Cyberforce Volume 2,*** which collects the six-issue series by *Ron Marz & Pat Lee* with additional new pages;
- ***Girls Volume 3: Survival,*** collecting ***Girls #s 13-18;***
- ***Kane Volume 6: Partners,*** collecting ***Kane #s 24-29 & 31;***
- ***The Last Christmas,*** collecting the limited series;
- ***Magdalena Volume 1,*** collecting the miniseries along with Magdalena's first appearance in ***The Darkness #s 15-18;***
- ***Noble Causes Volume 6: Hidden Agendas,*** collecting ***Noble Causes #s 13-18*** and the story from the ***Image Holiday Special 2005;***
- ***Outlaw Nation,*** collecting *Jamie Delano, Goran Sudzuka, & Goran Parlov's* saga of Story Johnson;
- ***Renfield: A Tale of Madness,*** collecting the Dracula-inspired series by *Gary Reed & Galen Showman; and*
- ***Truth, Justin, & The American Way,*** collecting the first five issues of the humorous superhero series by *Scott Kurtz, Aaron Williams, & Giuseppe Ferrario.*

Coming Comics— Dark Horse in November

Masamune Shirow's ***Appleseed*** continues in ***Appleseed Notes,*** a 160-page mixed color/B&W volume that includes an 80-plus-page Appleseed tale, plus reams of detailed information and art of the characters, machines, and weapons of Appleseed.

Learn how director *Zack Snyder* took *Frank Miller's* Thermopylae saga ***300*** from graphic novel to silver screen in ***The Art of Making 300.***

Steve Morris presents three stories of suspense in ***Blessed Thistle.*** A desperate young man breaks into a house and finds its owner awake inside; a school teacher returns from a tropical vacation carrying a disturbing secret; and a girl's playground bullying triggers a horrifying event.

Dark Horse's line of syroco-styled sculptures based on the creations of *Charles Schulz* continues with the release of ***Classic Peanuts Character Statue #2: Lucy Van Pelt,*** limited to 1200 pieces. Good grief!...

Just in time for the release of the first ***Hellboy*** animated film, *Jim Pascoe, Tad Stones, Rick Lacy, & Fabio Laguna* present ***Hellboy Animated Volume One: The Black Wedding Dress,*** an 80-page manga-sized volume featuring two original tales done in animated style.

Hellgate: London presents an original series by *Ian Edginton & Steve Pugh* inspired by the videogame. Years after the beginning of a devastating war between humanity and hordes of invading demons, the surviving humans must learn the secret of the Sigil before they face extinction.

Dark Horse continues its upscale vinyl model import program with the release of ***The Kotobukiya C-3PO & R2-D2 Soft Vinyl Model Set.*** This soft-vinyl kit measures nearly 12" tall, including the base (C-3PO measures about 10.5" and R2-D2 measures almost 6").

PREVIEWS

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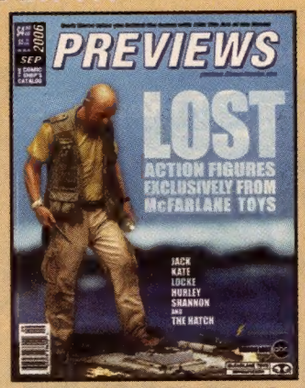

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SUPERMAN CONFIDENTIAL #1—Award-winning creators Darwyn Cooke and Tim Sale bring us *Superman Confidential #1,* the first chapter in a 6-part story arc in the brand-new ongoing *Superman* series revealing key moments in the history of the Man of Steel! In this issue: Learn the secrets of Kryptonite! Witness Superman's first encounter with the radioactive chunks of his home planet and learn how it changed his life!

LOST SERIES 1 ACTION FIGURES—McFarlane Toys presents their first series of LOST Action Figures, featuring amazing sculpted likenesses of castaways *Jack, Kate, Hurley, Shannon, Charlie* and the enigmatic *Locke!* Plus, McFarlane Toys captures the moment when the mysterious Hatch was blasted open in a special boxed diorama set!

500+ pages of cool stuff that starts shipping in November!

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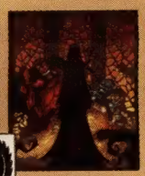
CHECK OUT THESE OFFERINGS:

Hellboy Animated Volume 1: The Black Wedding—Coinciding with the upcoming release of the first *Hellboy* animated film on DVD, Dark Horse's **Hellboy Animated Volume 1** brings the cartoon version of the character full circle to the comics pages, in two original tales!



Red Menace #1— Writers Danny Gilson & Paul DeMeo and Adam Brody (star of *The O.C.*) — with art by fan-favorite Jerry Ordway & inker Al Vey — present *Red Menace,* a story of heroes and the corrupt leaders they must take a stand against, set against the backdrop of a McCarthy-era America!

Drain #1—Her clan destroyed, her family murdered by vampires, Chinatsu, a once-proud female ninja, had nothing left to live for... save revenge. **Drain** is a centuries-spanning tale of bloodlust and betrayal, by C.B. Cebulski and artist Sana Takeda!

The Immortal Iron Fist #1— Danny Rand leaps from the pages of *Daredevil* to his own new mini-series — a history-spanning kung-fu epic from writer Ed Brubaker and breakout talent Matt Fraction (*Punisher War Journal*), with action-packed art by David Aja (*Giant Size Wolverine*)!

AND BE SURE NOT TO MISS:

- **EC Archives: Shock SuspenStories Vol. 1 HC** from Gemstone Publishing!
- **24: Nightfall #1** from IDW Publishing!
- **Bettie Page by Olivia HC** in the Books Section!
- **LOST Season 2 Cards** in the Trading Cards Section!
- **Star Wars: Imperial Briefing Room PX Figure Set** in the Toys Section!
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Jason Hall & Kelley Jones adapt the upcoming film ***The Messengers*** in an 80-page manga-format graphic novel. ***The Messengers*** tells the haunting tale of the horrifying deterioration of a once-idyllic North Dakota farm.

A young high school student discovers that her parents have arranged her marriage to a fiancé that she's never met—and of course, misadventure ensues in ***Red String Volume 1,*** a shoujo-inspired series by *Gina Biggs.*

Ron Marz & Luke Ross revisit the world of the samurai Shiro and his kidnaped love Yoshiko in ***Samurai: Heaven & Earth v2 #1.*** Now held by a Spanish nobleman, Yoshiko dreams of being reunited with her beloved—not knowing that he will follow them from Spain to the azure waters of the Mediterranean, and finally to the sands of fabled Egypt.

Matthew & Shawn Fillbach, Chris Avellone, Ryan Kaufman, Jeremy Barlow, Ethen Beavers, & Stewart McKenny present more animation-style ***Star Wars*** tales in ***Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 7.***

Dark Horse collected editions include:

- ***Archenemies*** collecting *Drew Melbourne & Yvel Guichet's* tale of a superhero and supervillain who are, in their normal identities, roommates;
- ***Blade of the Immortal Volume 16: Shortcut,*** continuing *Hiroaki Samura's* samurai saga;
- ***BPRD: The Universal Machine,*** collecting the miniseries by *Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Guy Davis;*
- ***Rex Mundi Volume 2: The River Underground,*** collecting *Rex Mundi v1 #s 7-11,* along with a never-before-imprint "Brother Matthew" story; and
- ***Star Wars: Empire Volume 7—The Wrong Side of the War,*** collecting ***Star Wars: Empire #s 36-40.***

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- Ghost Rider Movie: Mephistopheles Bust
- Marvel Icons: Captain America Bust
- Marvel Milestones: Showdown Spider-Man Statue
- Marvel Milestones: X-Men 3 Danger Room Statue
- Marvel Origins: Iron Man Statue
- Marvel Universe: "Age of Apocalypse" Psylocke Bust
- Premiere Collection: Psylocke Statue
- Rocky: Italian Stallion Robe Replica
- Spider-Man: "Sinister Six Series" Kraven Statue
- X-Men 3: Movie Colossus Bust

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- DC FIRST APPEARANCES SERIES 4 (POST-CRISIS)
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- SUPERMAN/BATMAN SERIES 4
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